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EVERYTHING FOR MEN AND WOMEN

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### GAMES OF SKILLED CROOKS

#### Shady Methods of Chasing Other People's Money.

#### THINK OF FALLING OFF CARS

#### Business of Hurting One's Self a Regular Means of Extracting Coins from Treasuries of Corporations.

The profession or trade of falling off trolley cars for a living has been mentioned occasionally in the press of late, but even those who have read of it are seldom aware that this is merely one branch of a far wider business—a specialty, in fact.

The business of hurting yourself and then suing somebody for damages, like all other professions in this era of specialization, has been specialized and refined. True, there are still a great many professional practitioners, just as the family doctor still survives in large numbers in spite of the nerve specialist, the brain specialist and the stomach specialist. Nevertheless, the specialist is the real thing in this business, as in others. The man who can fall out of an elevator every few months, the woman who can hang herself against a bolt of cloth in a department store at frequent intervals, not only conserve his or her intellect, but are beginning to think up different methods all the time, but grow so expert by concentration that the profit is surer and the risk almost eliminated.

The profession, too, is divided into local and general practice. Some prefer to stay in one locality, such as New York City, extending their field no further than to Long Island City at the furthest. There are others who take the entire Atlantic coast as a field; will fall off a trolley car today in Boston and turn up next month with the news of a trolley accident in Mill others operate throughout the entire United States, and at least one case is of record where the financier chose Great Britain and the United States as his modest field.

The growth of the business has forced the firms and corporations who have been engaged in paying out money to these financiers to take defensive action, and hence there was formed not long ago the "Alliance Against Accident Fraud," which now numbers among its members over fifty firms and corporations in various parts of the union.

This company, or alliance, keeps a card index of all accident cases, and when one of its members is sued and reports the case the alliance searches its records to find if the plaintiff has ever sued anyone before. If he has, previous suits are looked up by the alliance and the defendant member is notified of the result. A card index of doctors and lawyers is also kept. In Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia a cross-index of addresses is kept. For instance, if John Smithovich of 121 State street sues the Boston Elevated, the case is indexed under Smithovich and also under State street, so that if any of John's neighbors in that house begin a damage suit against anybody an investigation can be started to see if a self-hurting trust exists in that locality.

#### How the Game Works.

In one house in Boston eleven claimants were found by this method. The way the game was worked was this: A would sue the Boston Elevated, claiming that he had caught his foot in getting out of a car; B and C would be his witnesses. B would sue the electric light company, claiming that he stumbled over a stump in the dark; A and C would be his witnesses. C would sue the Merchants' Express company, claiming that an express wagon rounded a corner too quickly and a box fell off and landed on his foot; A and B would be his witnesses. The law firm of Cookley & Sherman, in Boston, handled all one time 300 cases against the Boston Elevated. In Philadelphia the Mercer brothers operated successfully for a long time with a sort of private hospital. They had in their combination a lawyer, a physician and a nurse. Their specialty was having a man "throw a fit" in front of a street car so that the tender would hit him. At one time they had a professional contortionist in their employ for this purpose. As soon as the "accident" took place one of the firm, in a wagon, would jump down, brush the excited spectators aside and say: "Never mind waiting for an ambulance; I'll take the poor fellow myself." Then he would lead the injured man into his wagon, drive him to a private house and keep him there for three weeks under the care of the nurse. The physician would produce the necessary proof, the lawyer would bring suit and there would be a settlement or a verdict. The Mercers finally fled to Philadelphia and operated for a while in New York, but have since scattered. Joseph A. Shay, who recently got into trouble for trying to rig up the escape of a prisoner from the Tombs, was their counsel.

#### Making Corporations Pay.

While in New York the Mercers formed a combination with an artificial leg dealer. When a man came out to buy a leg the dealer would suggest that he might as well get some money from some corporation for the loss of his leg and send him to the Mercers to fix up a story of how he lost it. There have been a singularly large number of accidents in the Sellinger family of 200 Forsyth street, New York. The son, Edgar, aged 11, was the first victim. She sued her landlord, claiming that on August 4, 1906, part of the ceiling fell and hurt her head. On September 8, 1906, Jacob Sellinger was pushed against a seat on a Brooklyn car and hurt. He sued the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company. On August 21, 1906, a car on De Lancey street gave a start, throwing Annie Sellinger to the floor. Then the whole Sellinger family, together with five other tenants in the Forsyth street house, sued the Consolidated Gas company, claiming that a leaking meter made them ill. It was settled for \$156. L. Edwin Oppenheim is the lawyer appearing in all these cases. The Bruhke family of Chicago was equally unfortunate. Its record runs thus as far as traces: Hermia Bruhke against City of Chicago, June 20, 1897; same against same, January 21, 1898; same against Metzger & Co., 1898; same against Chicago City Railway Company, 1899; same against same, September 24, 1902; William Bruhke (her son) against Chicago City Railway, December 31, 1904; same against same, July 17, 1905; Annie Bruhke (daughter) against Libby, McNeil & Co., December 21, 1905. The later misfortunes of the Bruhke family have not been traced.

#### Born to Trouble.

Elizabeth Williams of Brooklyn is another person who had a good deal of trouble in her life. She fell obliged to sue the Coney Island & Brooklyn railroad on August 8, 1897, for a car collision; the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company on July 25, 1907, for falling over some boards in the Ridgewood depot; the Long Island railroad on June 16, 1908, for falling over a rat in Long Island City; and A. D. Matthews & Sons on December 15, 1908, for bumping against a bolt of cloth. Thomas A. Rogers and Charles A. Williams of Long Island City seem unable to avoid hurting themselves. Williams' wife and son also feel obliged sometimes to sue railroad companies. Rogers has a longer list of injuries than the Williams family put together and is quite impartial as between railroad companies and dry goods stores. Rogers is a philanthropist, too, and when not suffering from injuries himself will go to lawyers who have accident cases on hand and tell them he can get witnesses for them. He went to Thomas F. Gilroy, a specialist, and told him he knew of some witnesses who had obtained in a damage suit that lawyer had on hand. Mr. Gilroy innocently told him to go ahead; but Rogers furnished so many that Mr. Gilroy's suspicions were aroused. He investigated and "fired" the whole crew. Among the specialists of note may be mentioned William J. Leonard, who formerly operated in Boston, but left there some months ago. Leonard had a woman partner named Mary Toner, otherwise known as Odette or Duette. She, too, had a specialty, quite different from Leonard's, and neither was impressed on the other's patient. Leonard's specialty was elevator accidents and Miss Toner's was a refinement of the trolley car method. Miss Toner's Specialty. The usual method of getting hurt in a trolley car is to be thrown from your seat when the car gives a jerk, but Miss Toner's specialty was to be thrown just as they started and being thrown to the ground. Leonard never bothered with trolley cars except once. He practiced the profession of getting out of elevators when the car was not quite level with the landing and tripping over the casing. His record for the year 1908 was as follows: Sued American Fidelity company March 16; Travelers' Insurance company, same day; Employers' Liability company, April 5; Travelers' Insurance company, March; Boston and Worcester Street Railway company, March 1; Casualty company of America, June 18. In his case against the Employers' Liability company he gave the name of John Thurman and in the second of his suits against the Travelers' Insurance company that of William Ward. All were elevator accidents except one, a trolley car suit and one case where he was "struck by a team."

But the most remarkable specialty is that of G. W. McDonald, alias Daniel, who gets hit in the eye with an incandescent light. He is operating in the west now. His method is to enter a trolley car and quietly unscrew one of the incandescent lights. When the car starts it gives a jerk the globe falls. As it does so McDonald gives a cry of pain and claps his hands to his eye. In his hand is a compound which has the effect of inflaming the eye and making it water. Then, of course, he sues the road. He is known to have mutilated the Little Rock (Ark.) Railway and Electric company on July 3, 1908, and the Birmingham (Ala.) Light and Power company on August 3 of the same year. Five days afterward he was in Oklahoma City and underwent a similar operation on the Oklahoma Railway company. He failed, the Oklahoma being too sharp for him, and moved on to Guthrie, where he tried it again. The Guthrie people had been forewarned and he failed, but on November 15 he played the game successfully on the Memphis (Tenn.) Street Railway company. As a result, the Memphis people has joined the alliance. At least one of these operators allows no pent-up continent to contract his powers. His name is John D. Robinson. He loomed up in Baltimore with a claim against the United Railway and Electric company. Detective Atkinson of the Baltimore police department produced proof that Robinson had worked in London and collected \$25 from the Employers' Liability Assurance company there. Robinson went to jail for a year and the Alliance Against Accident Fraud gave Atkinson \$500 as a reward. One novel variation of the game is played at the expense of lawyers instead of corporations. The practitioner appears in a law office with a bandaged hand and a circumstantial story of how he was injured by a street car, together with a false list of witnesses. He asks the lawyer to take his case and the lawyer does so. As the client is leaving he asks the lawyer to cash a lodge premium for \$5, and the attorney eagerly consents. He never hears again of his client.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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## Beautiful Silk Dresses \$12.50

Made to Sell at \$22, \$22.50 and \$25, at **\$12.50**

Our resident New York buyer purchased these beautiful dresses at a wonderfully low price, and we are giving you the benefit of this remarkable sale for just before Easter, when silk dresses are most in demand; all are pretty new styles. The materials are silk foulard, messaline and pongee. Several hundred to choose from; \$20.00, \$22.50 and \$25.00 Dresses; **\$12.50 ON SALE SATURDAY AT . . . . .**

## Stunning Tailored Suits, \$25

Values \$35.00, \$37.50 and \$40.00, at . . . . .

Over 300 new tailored suits that just arrived will be placed on sale Saturday. All are beautiful new models, perfectly tailored in plain mannish styles and beautifully trimmed designs. The materials are fine worsteds, Prunella cloth and French serges, in all colors. These suits are \$35.00, \$37.50 and \$40.00 values; on sale Saturday at . . . . . **\$25**

New Shirt Waists, \$1.45 Stylish New Skirts, \$5.95

These pretty shirt waists are just from the maker's hands; crisp new styles—made of finest materials; values \$2.00 and \$2.25— **\$1.45** on sale at . . . . .

Saturday morning we will place on sale a splendid collection of new skirts; all are perfectly tailored of all wool materials; in the very newest styles; values \$7.50 to \$10.00; on sale at . . . . . **\$5.95**

A Bottle of Fine Easter Wine **FREE** AT **Hillier's**

Saturday we will present each customer making a purchase of Hillier's brands of liquors, (\$1.00 or more) with a BOTTLE OF FINE EASTER WINE FREE.

HILLIER'S WHISKEYS  
Fill Quarts, 50c, \$1, \$1.25  
Hillier's Fine Wines  
35c, 50c, 75c Per Quart  
If it comes from HILLIER'S It must be good  
1309 Farnam St.  
Prompt Delivery—Both Phases

**G. A. Lindquist Co.**  
235-36 Paxton Block.

Makers of good clothes. A nice line of spring patterns on hand and our prices are right. A liberal discount on two or more suits.

**SHAKE INTO YOUR SHOES**

Allen's Foot-Powder, a powder. Relieves painful smarting, nervous feet and ingrowing nails, and instantly takes the sting out of the corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Powder makes tight or new shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for sweating, callous, swollen, tired, aching feet. Try it today. Sold by all Druggists and Shoe Stores. By mail for 25c in stamps. Don't accept any substitutes. Trial package FREE. Address Allen S. Ottens, Le Roy, N. Y.

**PARKER'S HAIR BALM**

Restores the hair to its natural color and growth. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Removes dandruff. Greases the hair to its youthful color. Cleans scalp. Restores hair falling out. 50c and \$1.00 at Druggists.

**The French Way**

**Go To The Bottom**

Of your trunk and get out your last spring's clothing. Where the garments are too soiled to look fresh and nice, the French Dry-Cleaning Process will make them look as well as in their pristine beauty. If they are badly worn, or if you are tired of the colors, our unrivaled dyeing facilities are at your service.

**French Dry Cleaning Works**  
Phone No. Doug. 4173; A-2125  
1908 FARNAM

**The Brewster**

Cor. Boylston and Washington Sts.  
TEL. 4144 OXFORD.

Dinner parties before and after the theatre will receive our special attention. Ladies when shopping will find it most convenient to have luncheon here with every known comfort and exclusion.

**Ainslie & Grabow Company,**  
Operating Hotels Lenoir, Tallieries & Empire, Boston  
New Ocean House, Swampscott  
Hotel Thecliff, Jamaica, W. I.

**At the Theaters**

"In the Nick of Time" at the Krug.

Melodrama of the sort that is active and oft times tense without being coarse and common, several pleasing vaudeville numbers and a goodly portion of comedy are blended acceptably in the last offering of the regular season at the Krug. "In the Nick of Time" began a week-end engagement Thursday night, and although not patronized by a crowded house, made quite a hit with those who attended. It is different from the usual melodrama and lacks that sameness of situations and climaxes which so often makes that class of play tiresome. Neither is it made comic by over-present sure play and impossible deeds of heroism. Its situations are extraordinary enough to make the piece a go without giving it a flavor of impossibility. And as a welcome bit of variety, there is no hero of the Johnnie-on-the-Spot order to be always playing to the gallery. The character who is the hero is a hero sure enough, but of the sort that is lifelike and not exaggerated. A feature of note is the presentation of a scene depicting a vaudeville entertainment that becomes enlivened by a tragedy in one of the boxes, and a climax of tenderness and fascination. Miss Della Clark, who reads the company and also wrote the play, is well adapted to the role and plays it with relish. Although handicapped by a bad cold last night, she succeeded in carrying the part with aptness. The rest of the large company supports her well and makes the production a well rounded evening of entertainment. It is staged in nine scenes with special settings.

**HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER IS ILL**

Miss Belle R. Wilson is So Sick Her Recovery is Said to Be in Doubt.

Miss Belle R. Wilson, teacher in the high school, is seriously ill at her home at 410 North Twenty-third street and the attending physician fears she will not survive the week out. Miss Wilson took cold about six weeks ago and this developed into the grip with other complications. She has been in the high school over eight years and has been teacher of mathematics. Miss Wilson lives with her mother.

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**Weinlander & Smith**  
Ladies' Exclusive Furnishings  
317 So. 16th Street